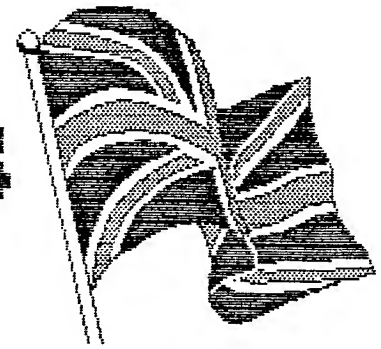


geoNEWS



JOURNAL OF geoCLUB

ISSUE 12

AUGUST 1992



EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Another month is almost over already. Just 12 months ago I was working on the very first geoNEWS, Issue 1 Spetember 1991. A great deal has happend since then. Membership stands at 80 (25/7/92), broken down to 15 Australia, 5 Germany, 2 Ireland, 1 Belgium, 1 Malta, 1 Russia, it goes without saying this is far bigger than I ever imagined. My thanks go out to all those who's support I have recieved especailly the ones who at the begining said " It's a great idea, I'm with you". I will not single anyone out because some are able to give more support than others. Our standing in Australia is due mainly to the hard work of 'out man in Oz' Peter Hunt, one of the original stalwarts, the great advantge here of course is that most Australians speak a language very similar to our own and so translation is quite easy for them, most of the time. I have recieved a lot of input this month and I want to thank everyone who has sent articles for inclusion, if your's has not appeared this month it will next. Our birthday issue next month will contain a free disk kindly donated by a Canadian company which I am sure we will all enjoy. HappyGEOS-ing, FRANK



CONTENTS

PAGE	ITEM
2	Switch 1351 Mouse Paul Milner
3	Did You Know ? Roy McIntosh
5	GeoRAM German Style
6	Typing Speed Roy McIntosh
7	GE-OZ Warren Naismith
8	geoCLUB Disks Terry Watts
9	For Sale
10	Readers Write
12	New members
13	Readers Survey Terry Watts
14	Happy Birthday Roy McIntosh

INFO

NAME FRANK CASSIDY
STREET
TOWN
CITY MANCHESTER
ZIP
TEL
PACKET

☒ WRITE PROTECT

Switch-1351-Mouse

by Paul Milner

-Online Switching, between the Mouse and Joystick modes without pulling the plug.

Introduction.

According to the 1351 handbook the 1351-Mouse has two operating modes : 1) Joystick mode 2) Proportional mode I Quote "In joystick mode, the mouse emulates a joystick and can be used with all joystick-compatible software. In this mode, the left button is the fire button and the right button is usually ignored.

In proportional mode, the mouse uses a new technique to communicate mouse movement to the controlling application software. That requires the software to know the mouse is there and how to read it. For example, the GEOS operating system can use many different input drivers. One of them is the Commodore-Mouse driver, which can be used with the 1351 in proportional mode.

The 1351 provides a proportional mode so that applications can have a fast, responsive pointer that moves easily on the screen. Joystick mode acts as a fallback for those applications that don't have installable device drivers. You can therefore use the mouse as a joystick for older software, and take advantage of the benefits provided by proportional mode with newer applications.

The mouse automatically powers up in proportional mode. To choose joystick mode, plug the mouse into either joystick port on the side of the computer and hold down the right button as the computer is powered up" End Quote.

So much for the handbook, there are two other methods with which we can change the operative mode :

1) We can pull the mouse plug out of

the computer and then stick it back in, at the same time holding the right hand button down - the mouse is now in joystick mode. We can pull the mouse plug out of the computer and then stick it back in, but this time we don't touch the mouse button - the mouse is now in the (startup) proportional mode.

2) We can change the mode using a hardware procedure.

This is the method that I am going to describe here. It is a simple hardware conversion, will does not take longer than half an hour to complete, it is very simple and can be carried out by anyone you has ever done any plastic model building, and who can use a soldering iron.

You will need :

1 1351-Mouse where the guarantee has run out. 1 small push button switch, this must be an "OPENER", about 25 cm single core wire, straight out of the model railway junk box !

Theory :

The mouse is provided with +5 Volt DC through Pin 7 of the joystick port, this must be switched off in order to change the mouse mode. Normally this is achieved by removing the mouse plug and then putting it back in, however I don't use a six pound hammer to put panel pins in ! We are going to achieve the same reaction, and prolong the life of the computer, using a simple switch.

The switch :

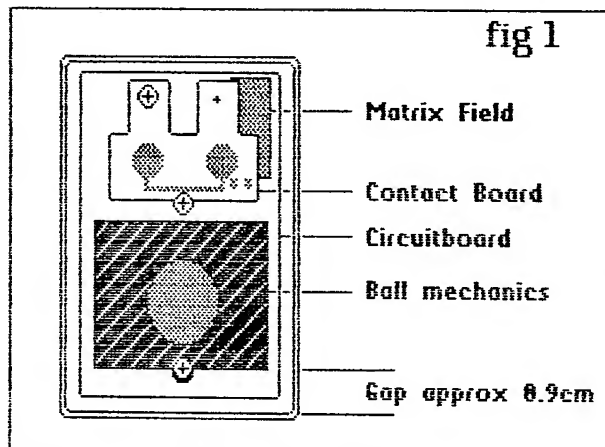
For this conversion we need an OPENER, this is a switch which doesn't, as usual, complete an electrical circuit. Quite the opposite, we need a switch that breaks the circuit - opens it. For this it is best to use a push button switch, as small as you can find. Later we shall see that the available space is very limited. You can purchase a switch such as this from all the usual Radio/Electronic-Hobby outlets eg. Tandy or

Radio Shack.

The dissection :

Lets have a close look at the 1351-mouse, first switch off the computer and remove the mouse plug. Now we turn the mouse over onto it's back - at the front end, left and right from the cable outlet we see two small Phillips screws, remove these and place them in a safe place.

Now we open the mouse, lift up the upper part of the casing - from the front to the rear. At the rear of the casing are two clip in hinges - be careful with these, they are very fragile.



The upper casing should now be placed in a safe place. We are now looking at fig 1

It is us now perfectly clear that we are not going to have a lot of space in which to build in the new switch, so it would be better now to work out and see if our switch is going to fit in the casing. The best bet is down at the bottom end, there we have a gap of about 0.9 cm, between the 'Ball mechanics' + the casing which we can use. If you are planning to use a cylindrical switch this will probably best fit in with the length of the switch along the bottom of the casing, with the push button sticking out of the side of the mouse. If you are lucky enough to have one of the tiny square micro

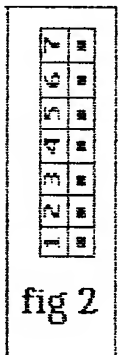
switches, like me (lucky devil), these can be fitted in the gap, with the button sticking out of the rear of the mouse, this is the most elegant method, however there is not much room and it is a very tight fit.

After we have made sure that our switch will fit we can carry on with the rest of the dissection.

Next we remove the 'Contact Board', to do this we must remove two small Phillips screws - place these in the same safe place as the other bits ! (All the screws are identical). Now we carefully remove the 'Ball mechanics' (another screw), watch it ! the 'Tracking Ball' will fall into your hand. After we have done this the 'Circuitboard' can be removed from the body of the 1351-mouse. We have to be very careful that we don't damage or break any of the very small wires.

Putting in the switch :

Now we come to the exciting bit, the insertion of the new switch. In order to insert the switch we are going to either have to drill a hole or have a bash with the razor saw, before we start chopping up the casing it is as well to make extra sure that the switch really is going to fit in the mouse after the casing has been closed - (Once bitten twice shy). Once we have made sure of this we can solder the thin wire to the switch contacts, and then re-insert the switch into the mouse - again making sure that everything will fit afterwards.



Electrics :

Lets have a look at the 'Circuitboard', in the top right hand corner there is an area that I have called the 'Matrix Field'. This is a printed area where a great pile of wires descend onto a number of soldered contacts, see fig 2

The numbered contact boxes have the same definitions as the mouse plug

contacts, now that's dandy. We need the contact No.7, dead easy it's the last in line. A PURPLE wire goes into contact No.7, de-solder this wire. Take one of the wires from the new switch and solder it to contact No.7. The other wire from the switch should be soldered to the PURPLE wire which we have removed from contact No.7, wind a bit of insulating tape around this joint.

That's it, finished, all we need to do now is to put the mouse back together again - no problem because we know that everything fits, 'cos we've tried it before !

Operating test :

To try out the converted 1351-mouse we will need to start any old "shoot-em-up", plug the mouse in - away we go. Ey up it don't work mister ! Course not silly boy, we need a joystick. So we press our new switch, at the same time holding the right hand button down, let go of the new switch first. Hey Presto the mouse is now playing at being a joystick !!

To return to the proportional mode (mouse) simply press the new switch - OK

Conclusions :

This is a very long description of a very simple conversion. I have deliberately gone into a lot of detail so that 'soldering-iron-beginners' wouldn't be frightened off.

This was an original idea from my mate Dirk Berghoefer - Germany
I've only put it into words.

If anyone has any questions feel free;
Paul Milner

Spangenberg
Germany

Did you know?

by Roy McIntosh

- That the Geos User Club (Germany) now has an 80 column version of it's alternative DeskTop. The club is still looking for an American distributor for some it's software.

That Commodore Computers Ltd increased its overall turnover to \$371,6 million and netted a \$40,1 million profit during the first half of 1991. During the second half of the year the turnover increased to \$575,7 with a net profit of \$45,5 million. (C64'er, June issue!)

That the GUC is at present in a legal wrangle with the German distributors for Geos. A court case is now pending reference the sale of the club's geoRom. Further sales of geoRom have at the moment been halted.

That 105 copies of Geos in Germany, the magazine about the GUC, were sent out to readers in 8 countries: Germany, England, Holland, Switzerland, Luxemburg, USA, Australia and Belgium.

That a new "Turbo" 8 MHz card is being developed in Germany for the C64. The card will include a 65816 processor and can be updated to include up to a 4 Mbyte RAM card. To ensure that the drive does not have a slowdown effect, a floppy speeder will be integrated.

That the GeoRam will only function if the hardware is accompanied by the software Geos V2.0r. The usual Geos V2.0 software will not install the GeoRam and therefore can not be used with it. The reason for this is the absence of a DMA-Chip in the GeoRam.

That CMD have now introduced a new monitor program for the Jiffy-DOS speeder system. The program is called Jiffy-Mon.

That an Acorn Archimedes programmer, Mathias Seifert, has programmed a C64 emulator for the Acorn

Archimedes 3000 + 4000 series. According to Mr Seifert; basic and assembler programs will work with the emulator as well as sprites and IRQ files. There will be a port for the possible connection of a 1541 drive.

All Tips and Tricks in this article are from various sources. The main sources used; the GUC and C64'er magazine.

What Happens !!

According to Roy McIntosh

I can still remember the nervous reaction I felt after buying my new Geos V2.0 program and on realising that if I made a mistake whilst installing it - then that would be it! God, I'm new to all of this I thought. What if it all went wrong. What if I made a mistake and the program didn't install itself properly. What if.....! Well, you know what I mean.

So being the nice sort of bloke that I am - my wife probably thinks otherwise - I thought I might pass on a bit of information as to what happens when you install a new virgin Geos program. Who knows there might just be someone out there who has yet to go through the harrowing process of nail biting tension, during those first few minutes of installing his new Geos V2.0; just so that he can become a member of the geoclub UK and make use of all of this "useful" information.

The installation of the newly aquired Geos V2.0 has to do with activating the copy protection system within the program. Without going into too much

detail this is what happens after the boot disk has been inserted into the 5.1/4" 1541, or 1571 drive. And why you have to do it. Each Geos System comes on two Bootdisks (at least the Geos V2.0 version has two disks). Each disk has it's own internal serial number. These serial numbers are not the same as the serial numbers seen on the disk labels, but consist of a technical makeup of two bytes; which range from random numbers selected between 0 - 65535. A separate selected serial number for each disk is then memorised, a different one for each disk, and then all goes quite, until you start an application. On starting an application (for example GeoWrite 2.1) The installed serial number on the BootDisk checks the serial number of each new application started and will only function if the number in use is the same as the serial number on the original boot disk used to start the system. The main advantage of this - apart from the copyright protection angle - is that you may now copy your application disks as often as required, providing that you use your own BootDisk.

So what about my Backup Disk? I can hear some of you say. The problem would start if your main System Disk were suddenly to fail and the Backup Disk had a different serial number, after all it does start off with a different one. The whole Geos system would be rendered useless. Nothing would work!!! It is for this reason that Geos allocates a random serial number during the initial boot sequence and fixes them on both the Boot- and the BackupDisks. Just before leaving the programmers desk both disks were given separate numbers!

If you purchase a new Geos System and still wish to work with your old applications, then even this has been catered for. Instead of the new BootDisk setting a random serial number it takes on

the serial number of your old applications (or Geos System), providing that you follow the instructions, which appear during the initial installation sequence. You only have to do this with one of your applications once.

This is what happens during the initial Installing sequence:

- 1) Insert System disk to boot system.
- 2) Insert Backup disk for duplication of serial number.
- 3) Insert one application and tally serial numbers.
- 4) Insert System disk and transfere the now completed serial nr.
- 5) Insert Backup disk to transfere completed serial number.
- 6) Insert System disk and reboot Geos.

Well, now you know whats what!

:~) Roy

geoRAM, German Style

One of the most asked questions in my mail bag is always, "Where can I get an REU from". Those of you who do not know what an REU is, it is a Ram Expansion Unit. It plugs into the Catridge port which is the small socket on the righthand side at the rear of your C64/C128. Why do all these people ask this question ? Ram Expansion is what GEOS was written for, until you have seen GEOS run within RAM you have not seen GEOS run to it's full potential. It makes GEOS run so fast it has been compered to the difference between walking and flying a plane. I wouldn't put it quite like this but certainly it can be compared to walking and driving a car, click and application and there is no waiting for it to load up, it's already there and so after a 'wipe' of the screen you are at your first dialogue box. There are a number of different types, 1764,

1750 etc. The one most people go for is the 1750 with it's 512K of memory but even a smaller capacity REU can be up-graded to 512K and even more. The major problem is, they are almost impossible to obtain. Because of this Berkeley Softworks came up with the geoRam, a 512K REU specifically for GEOS, the fact that only GEOS will run in it could be considered a disadvantage but if you consider just how much other software is written to run within an REU puts this argument in it's proper persective. It's only other difference from a standard REU is it needs a special geoRAM GEOS boot-disk, the rest of the software geoWrite, geoPaint etc is the same. Then another major problem arises, Berkeley no longer make them. On the horizon looms the answer to most peoples problem, a geoRAM made and manufactured in Germany the only problem, will it run our USA version of GEOS, our German friends have their own version which has all dialogue boxes etc in the German language. We were very fortunate that one of our members, Eric Pickup has a geoRAM (USA version) and he kindly and very bravely loaned me his geoRAM boot disk to send to Roy McIntosh in Germany who had been loaned a geoRAM to check it's campatability. It is compatable in all ways, so anyone who wants some Ram Expansion this looks like the only way to go. These geoRAMS cost **DM.170 plus postage and VAT**. The software comes with it but as it is in German will be of no use unless you speak German and so the USA version boot-disk will need to be purchased from Berkeley Softworks at a cost of **\$9:50 for the Boot-Disk and \$9:50 for the manual plus postage customs duty and VAT** (actually the manual is hardly needed as it is only a Boot Disk). The German distributor is quite happy to sell their geoRAM to geoClub members but do not wish to sell these individually at this

price.

What I am prepared to do is obtain these on members behalf but as with the GEOS V2.0 offer in July geoNEWS I cannot afford the outlay and so members will either have to send the money to me so that I can get things organised or write to the appropriate companies and organise it themselves which will most likely cost more. I have worked it out that it will cost around £100, the things we do not know are the postage charge and consequently the VAT, plus of course there is the problem of the ever changing exchange rate £'s to DM's to \$'s. So I am asking for £120 with the possibility of a re-fund should there be any money left-over though please consider it may be that if it costs more then a further charge will have to be paid. If you are interested please send NO CASH NOW just your interest in a purchase on a postcard or in a letter so I can see just how many people are interested along with your telephone number, I will then contact you regarding the forwarding of the money.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank **ERIC PICKUP** for the loan of his treasured geoRAM boot-disk. **ROY McINTOSH** for a great deal of hard work in obtaining a geoRAM to test and check out. Most of all **Herr Mumme of PLUS ELECTRONICS** who loaned Roy the geoRAM to check out. Obviously a good company to deal with.

Having problems with your typing speed? How about

this for a tip!

by Roy McIntosh

"Put off until later, what isn't necessary to do straight away!" This piece of advice could speed up your data entry by

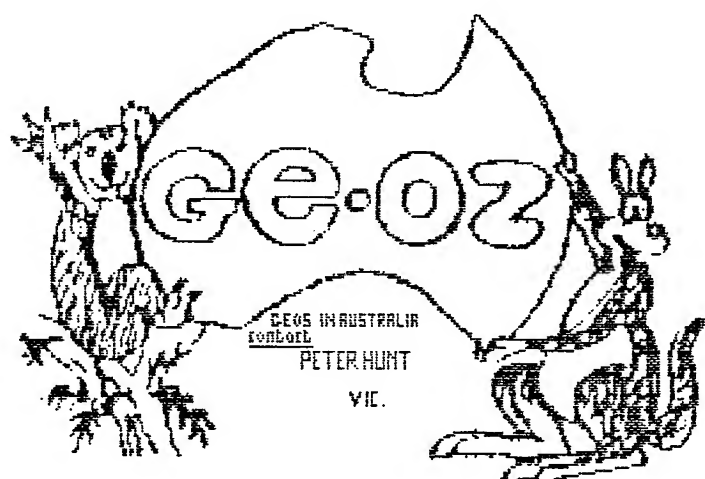
50% - or more.

GeoWrite is a fantastic text program, which allows the user to achieve all sorts of styles and formats as well as use many different fonts - even in the same text! There is however one drawback. The newly formatted text with various fonts and styles is slower to work with, than other text-programs for the C64/C128.

This is mainly due to the fact that Geos loads the various fonts directly from the disk, during the time you are editing the text. To get around this, try writing your text in the resident BSW font, which comes with the GeoWrite V2.0 programme. This nine point font allows a fast data entry to be achieved. You can concentrate on the contents first rather than bother yourself with the style; leave it to later !!! Now comes the nitty-gritty! All you need to do is to go back through your text setting the style, changing the fonts and the layout at will. This method will save you a lot of time and is a method used by many editors - and not just with Geos! After all, we are not the only ones who are interested in well presented reports!

:~) Roy

As well as being more efficient and faster, there is yet another advantage of using this method; which is that once you have become used to setting the priorities of data entry and layout, it is then easier for a larger text to be worked on by two people or more. All of them concentrate on the contents of the text first, and the style is then set by one person later. This method could be used by you when writing articles, interested in writing an article for the club magazine, when submitting a report.



by Warren Naismith

Hi!, and welcome to another installment of GE-OZ.

In this installment, I will look at ideas. Ideas for programmers in general, GEOS programmers in particular.

To me, there seems to be a certain amount of repetition amongst GeoProgrammers, we seem to dwell on grabbing graphics or text from elsewhere or the easy display of our artistry, whether it be graphics or fonts, little seems to be being done to make GEOS a more versatile entity.

Working in GeoPaint or GeoWrite could be enhanced with utilities to rotate graphics or text around an axis, giving one the ability to turn a picture or piece of text at a 90 degree angle, or even upside down. The ability to enlarge or shrink graphics/text could also be a handy addition, manys the time I've spent hours working on a project, only to find the finished product too large or too small for the intended purpose. One of my pet hates with GeoWrite, is the inability to read a screen of text without having to scroll the screen horizontally, surely a utility to display documents as screen sized pages is not a wild dream, applications for this that spring immediately to mind

are text display for a disk based GEOS magazine, as easy to read disk based notes or letters to GeoFriends or perhaps allowing a disk based format for that novel or short story you've just written in GeoWrite (with graphics?). I don't know about you, but grey on grey can sometimes get a bit dull, perhaps a colourful text utility could be implemented.

GeoFile and GeoCalc are fine applications, but sometimes it can be like using a cannon to kill a flea. I have yet to see a GEOS based small database or financial program. Surely there are many out there who would use a small phone and/or address database, or a small program to keep track of their cheque account. I know that there are plenty about outside GEOS, but why should you have to leave your favourite operating system, just to take care of a few mundane chores.

On the lighter side of things, why isn't there a GeoChess, GeoCheckers or Geopoly (monopoly). Perhaps those interested in the more mystical facets of life would like to see a GeoTarot or GeoAstrologer.

And what about education, GEOS is a natural for this application. Easy to learn, the operating system, in my humble opinion, offers an interface which allows students to quickly become involved with what they are supposed to learn, instead of spending hours trying to work out what they have to do before actually getting down to work.

I hope I've sparked the flame of inventiveness in a few of you, sometimes, the hardest part of programming coming up with something a little original. If you have something you'd like to see created, have programmed or are programming your own software, or know of a program that fulfills any of the above criteria, then I would to hear from you. You can either right Frank a lovely letter, begging him to publish your response, or you can write to: Warren Naismith,

Victoria, Australia.

geoCLUB Disk Review

by Terry Watts

geoCLUB DISK 5

Fonts Mega News, BlackStripe, Headerette, Tubby, Eastern, Square 18 and Ingot

Mlabel v2.5, Multi Labels in either Draft, NLQ or Hi Res inc Docs

Graphic Storm, Various sources to PhotoAlbum/Geopaint

geoDirPrint2, Print-out disk directory.

Album Rewriter, Changes Albums to be used with V1.(?) Managers

TwoButtons, A 1851 Mouse driver

Quick Top inc docs, 64 Files on screen, load and run like Desk Top

Two Buttons2, 64 L2R2L Mouse Drivers

Prairie Transport, A photo album of transport

Font view, View fonts on screen.

Paint view, View geoPaint files from outside geoPaint

Sneaky Snake, Game

Icon edit, Design your own icons

Icon Grabber, A DA for fast Icon transfer.

Also on disk, GraphicView 28, Rescuel 28 and docs, Color1 28 and docs

geoCLUB DISK 6

PhotoAlbum 1, Famous people such as Bob Geldof and Diana Ross

PhotoAlbum 2, More of the same, Pavarotti and Tina Turner

Animals 1, Rough Collie, Water Vole and more

Animals 2, Dinosaur, Owl and more

Tiger, Chimp and Kingfisher, Big pics, ideal to print out and let the kids colour in. (If you have kids!)

geoCLUB Disk 7

Font View Same as on disk 5

Fonts Hearts 32, Frosty 24, Sideways, geoClub, Boxes, Candy, 4th July, Flag 28, FontSquare+, Gothic 22, Mirror, Oz Font, Puzzle Font+, Stencil, Capitals, Font IBM+ Games Sneaky Snake, geoMath,

geoMimic and Yahtzee

New Borders PhotoAlbum

Turtles geoPaint border

Read Me Info, Double click to read

GeoView look at geoPaint pics from outside geoPaint

Geonews Geopaint pic

Scrapeek View scraps and Photoalbums

geoCLUB Disk 8

GeoView As on Disk 7

Planner 1992, A full page 1992 planner in geoPaint

Beatrix Potter, ED Duck 1, 2, 3 and 4,

Several Large pics of well known characters. Ideal for printing out and for colouring

geoCLUB Disk 9

geoVIEW Same as disk 8

geoCanvas A professional Paint program(Unfinished)

Nate Best Canv + Canvas Smooth Sorry, I don't know

GetitWrite Lists and allows renaming of Geowrite files that are imported by a geo Pub file

Lazarus 1571 + Docs Again, sorry I don't know

Trash Picker 64 + Docs Unscratch

Geoinfo + Docs Prints out the Info Files

Frog people + Map Fonts with a difference

ClipArt 1 PhotoAlbum

Always a Winner Game

Big Top 128 + Docs

geoCLUB DISK 10

Irene's Art, Boop-O, Mac, Mac People and

Misc Mac Clips Very good geopaint big pics

ClipArt 1, Sports Album, Large Clips +

Butterflies Photo Albums with various different pics

geoCLUB DISK 11

MicroFont As it says, a very small font

Icon Edit 2.1 Same as Disk 5(different version)

UFO, OWL, Commodore 64, Concorde,

GeoClub Sleeve and Railroad Geopaint Pics.

The geoclubsleeve is a disk sleeve

Big Clips 2 A photo album

* Pic A Planet + *Pic A The UFO Sorry, I don't know

geoCLUB DISK 12

REPENTHOUSE, SNOOPY DIVES,

STARMAN ART 1, GARFIELD,
CARTOON CHAR, CAT H23,
GEOCLUB ICONS and ANIMALS All
these are geoPaint pics, more colouring?
GEOCLUB PICS taken from the geoclub
icons pic

geoCLUB DISK 13

TERRY'S PICS Info about disk
PIC SHOW Run this to see the following
Pics>>>GGEASTER, GGMICKEY, GGATHER
XMAS, GGRAPHAEAL, GGROADRUNNER,
GGKANGAROO, GGTURTLES, GGXEROX,
GGBART, GGROO, GGSUPA-TEC, GGSUPA,
GGTERRY, GGMRDO-BE
Mr MEN PhotoAlbum
Quick Top 128 version
InspDiskette Compare two 1541 drives for
any differences

Geo CO2 A disassembler that creates
geowrite files
Worm Desk An alternative Desk Top
Selector 64 Change Drivers from within
Geos-64

Scrap It Cut BIG scraps from GeoPaint
Photo Mover Use to move scraps between
Photo albums

AutoDate Sorry, don't know
Grabber A DA to grab graphics from ANY
screen
Mouse Mate A DA to change input device
from inside applications
Directory Label A directory print-out
Print It Print out the current screen
Convert(DA) sorry, don't know
DirAid A neat little directory organiser
LockUnlock Locks, Unlocks files
Font Dump III Prints out Font Sample
sheets.

geoCLUB DISK 14

Crossword src and Docs sorry, don't
know (I believe you need geoBASIC for this
one)
Demo puz, Demo puz inf, Demo puz
clu and CW Font After all that, sorry,
don't know
GeoSleeve A geopaint file, Disk Sleeves
Geos Labels as above but Disk labels
GEOGIF Converts GIF graphics to GEOS

GEOKEY + GEOKEY 80 Changes protect bit
on files

MenuFix A 128 program
Density Display Don't know
FPE + DOCS A Fill Pattern editor, DA
Brick PatternSet, Open Pat and Auto
patLQ for use with FPE

geoCLUB DISKS 15 and 16

DISK 15 contains 48 (gc) geocable drivers
DISK 16 contains 100 printer drivers non-gc.
Sorry, but I am NOT listing all them!!

As far as is known all these disks are
either Public Domain or Shareware and
as such the charge of £1.25 per double
sided disk is purely for copying and
media all proceeds go to club funds.
They can be obtained from our software
librarian Terry Watts,

Derby. Please make
cheques out to geoCLUB.

FOR SALE

Preferably to someone who has little
money. I have gone 'Amiga' and would
like to download all my GEOS software to
a member of geoCLUB. It consists of
GEOS C64 V2.0, geoFILE and loads of
GEOS PD software. The asking price is
just £20 plus postage. Contact Andrew
Wilkins,

Herts, . (*Please remember
Andrew and all other down-grades
from GEOS in your prayers each
night. Frank*)

WANTED

A copy of the book, "GEO INSIDE OUT"
will pay between £10-£15. Contact
Stephen Collie,
Stockport, Cheshire,

Readers Letters

An edited extract from my vast mail-bag

Dear Frank,

I have a Star LC20 printer with which I have a couple of problems.

1. Loading single sheets, if I follow the manual nothing happens., I can do it but not the way the manual says.
 2. When printing out multiple page letters and Docs. I can do the first two pages OK but then I get a dialogue box saying "Printer is Inaccessable". What am I doing wrong,
- Terry Watts, Derby

Dear Terry,

I don't have an LC20 and I have not come across this problem with my LC10 so, Is there anyone out there can help with this one. Terry can be contacted at Terry Watts,
Derby,

Dear Frank,

Could you please answer these queries.
Brian Heatlie, Stockport

Q1 Is there a driver for the Swift 9 printer in colour

A1. Swift 9 Printer Driver Check with our software librarian (Address in the previous letter INCLUDE AN SASE)

Q2 The GEOS manual states that a printer with a resolution less than 80 DPI the document would have a greater width. If anything my printer seems to have a smaller printd inch yet it has a resolution of 60 DPI.

A2. I don't know

Q3 Is it possible to print NLQ with GEOS

A3 Yes you can print NLQ within GEOS but it works with Commodore 10 font only.

Q4 Do Commodore still stock REU's. Are they just for the 128 or can they be used with the C64.

A4 Commodore no longer make REU's.

They were originally made for the C128 but in fact there is very little software that supports them. GEOS 64 and 128 both support Ram Expansion.

Q5 Looking at the advertisement for the geoRAM I see it plugs into the user port, as I use this port for my printer this is of no use to me. Is it possible to get one that plugs into the cartridge port.

A5 geoRAM plugs into the cartridge port not the user port.

Q6 In the latest geoNEWS you say the price of GEOS V2.0 and geoPublish is £28, is this for both or each.

A6 The GOES V2.0 and geoPUBLISH offer is £28 each but we must order in units of 4 or more for this price. By the time you read this I will have ordered the ones requested and therefore you may have to wait a short while for me to order a further 4

Q7 I have seen your scanner advertised commercially. Did you make the interface yourself or did someone else. Is it complicated to make one or can I get someone to make one for me.

A7 I bought my hand Scanner with the C64 interface already built. Parsec Inc of Massachusetts sell them at around US\$350.

Q8 Which port does it plug into.

A8 It plugs into the User port.

Q9 Do you know of any software that will allow you to merge 'text scraps' into one text scrap which could be manipulated.

A9 I should think geoMerge would do it but not too sure, Anyone else know?

Q10 Is it possible to create paint scraps larger than the screen size.

A10 Yes, but you can only paste them in one go into a geoPublish page. To put large scraps into geoPaint you would need to cut them into manageable pieces, put them in an album then paste them into your geoPaint page one at a time and then 'drag' them together to match up. This is a lot easier than you would think and has to be done when 'hand' scanning a large graphic

that is larger than the screen size. Practice makes perfect as the saying goes.

Q11 What is the difference in the 128 and 128D. Do they both have a built in disk drive.

A11 The C128 looks similar to the C64. The C128D looks more like a PC and has a built in 1571 Disk drive.

Q12 I am unhappy buying things from abroad for example 1581 disk drive. Is it possible to buy these goods through you instead.

A12 NO. I am not running geoCLUB as a business, if I were the subscription would be much higher. I sell software for Quincy Softworks and will shortly be doing so for Complex-Software solely because they have asked me if I would, this way GEOS users get a good deal as there is no commercial gain the small profit we do make goes to club funds. Other than that if you see an offer like the V2.0 etc., it's a 'one-off' (When last advertised in this country V2.0 was £40.)

Q13 What is geoTRONIX and is it available.

A13 geoTronix is for making PCB's but that's as much as I know. I guess only available from the USA. Anyone else?

Q14 In geoWrite when you come to the end of a page it forces a page break. When printing out the document the paper feeds a bit then scrolls back but leaves a gap so the first sentence is printed on a new page starts a few lines after the last line in the previous page. I could manage with this but a geoWrite page is smaller than an A4 page so it looks strange. I do not know if this is cured in V2.0 or not. Any suggestions.

A14 You've lost me with this one.

Q15 Do you know if FSSL software still exists. This is where I spotted geoTronix and other GEOS software

A15 FSSL are long gone thank goodness.

Dear Brian

Due to the size of your letter and number of questions I have edited it into a Question and Answer set. I hope this solves your queries. Regards Frank

Dear Frank,

I have only been a member of geoCLUB for 2 weeks and already I have had my £5's worth. The 2 free disks although slightly mangled in the post are brilliant. Keep up the good work.

Andrew Fisher, Cambridge

Dear Andrew,

It's letters like this that make it all worth while, many thanks for your kind words. Regards Frank

New Members

New members this month are as follows

R.W. Almond	Dagenham
Andrew Fisher	Cambridge
Garry Lewis	Weston-S-Mare
Mark Trapp	Erdington
Fred Reynolds	Eire
James Reynolds	Eire
W. Fawcett	Richmond
Nick Nicholson	Borehamwood
Nigel Taylor	Bournemouth
M.A.M. Baxter	Belvedere
Tony Davenport	Blackpool
Laurie Alderson	Victoria (VIC)
Gregory Harper	East Blaxland (NSW)
Peter Dubowski	Carina Heights (QLD)
Arthur Whiting	Aroona (QLD)

Welcome to geoCLUB and many thanks for your support



THANK YOU



A REPORT ON RETURNED QUESTIONNAIRE FORMS.

by Terry Watts

First, thank you, all 20 of you that filled in and returned the Questionnaires. At least, we are all agreed that Frank is doing a Great Job. So, as it was all my idea at the beginning, Frank suggests that I 'reveal all'!! Several points were raised, such as someone to act as a 'Software/Stationary' supplier. Which, I suppose is basically a good idea, until you realise that double the postage has to be paid, once from the retailer to our supplier, then again from him/her to you. As I said, the idea is good, but it's not a cheap way of doing it. May I suggest that members who do not have a regular supplier look through the pages of

Micro Mart or other such 'serious' computer mags, there they will find several suppliers. Several members want a Technical Help page, as Frank has pointed out, he can only help with problems if they relate to equipment he already uses. What we need are members who are willing to help out fellow members who use likewise hardware. For example, it's no good anybody asking me to help them with printer problems other than about a Star LC 20. I wouldn't know where to start. (If you follow my drift). Some comments made me smile, it seems as though some members think that they should be getting a glossy mag every month!. Not so, we are just a bunch of amateurs, (sorry Frank), who, hopefully try to help one another. There are some requests for articles on Geoprogramming, sector editing etc. Is there anyone out there that could write an article about such things? Like, apparently, most of us, I enjoy using/playing with Geos, I 'aint no professional!! But what bugs me the most, several people pointed out that they did not order any Print Shop graphic disks because they do not have the original copy of Print Shop. I have lost count of how many times Frank has pointed out that you DO NOT need it to be able to use our PS library. It is very easy to convert them for GEOS use, if I can do it so can you!! OK, I realise that they are not everybody's cup of tea. Other points that were raised, a Pen Pal section, REU's and Geos V2.0, the fact that not everybody has them, adverts for computing gear to sell or swap. If all this looks a bit amateurish, please bear with me, it's my first attempt with Geopublish. Frank makes it look so easy!. Thank you again all those that took part, I presume the rest are either new commers who have yet to receive their back issue copies, simply forgot or just could not care less. Terry.

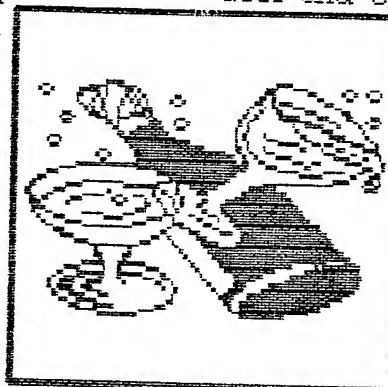




TWELVE MONTHS OLD



With the dawning of the twelfth issue of the geoClub newsletter we have a small anniversary on our hands. Who would of thought that all of those months ago that we (the geoClub UK) would have done so well. At the time of writing this (Sunday 05.07.1992) I am reflecting on the past year of letter writing, telephone and telefax calls to Frank and the general hustle and bustle of seeking out more information for the next newsletters. The very fact that we are still around after a year shows me that there really is a reason to continue the onslaught in the name of Geos and the C64/C128. On reflection, what started off as a quickly organised one page info sheet is turning into a newsletter full of information for everyones benefit. The standard and



contents of reports are improving with experience, the layout and special offers (software and hardware) are increasing all the time.

So where do we go from here?

We carry on as we are going at the moment. The number of members is on the increase. The input from the present members is also on the increase and if we continue to support Franks fantastic efforts we stand a good chance of having a geoClub with a fair bit of clout. After all, we need to ensure that our soft- and hardware stays alive and kicking for as long as possible. Only the Geos Users where ever they are can manage this. How many times have you heard the grunts and groans escaping from PC owner's (friends) lips, when they ask what sort of system you have at home! Oh no! I thought that that thing went out with the ark - they jibe. And so they may. If this should happen to you in the future ask them the following questions: Has your PC been around for 10 years? Do you have contact on such a large scale, with users of your type of PC? What does your hard- and software cost? Can you really believe that these overrated, over expensive and really powerful machines get the optimum use at home - I don't think so. After all who would pay thousands of pounds for a fastback Porsche, just to go shopping in it every day!!

What we really need to do is to ensure our own future by taking it firmly in our own hands. We made the first step - when we joined the club. There are hoards of Geos Users out there in the States, Australia, Canada, Germany and right across Europe. It is true to say that the present situation is not at it's best. GeoWorks has let us down, it would appear that they are stopping, or have stopped, the production of GeoRam. We no longer have the better Commodore Ram Expansion Units - the production was stopped for some unknown reason! The Commodore

1581 drives are as good as extinct, apart from the occasional surfacing of the odd one or two machines here and there. Even GeoWorks has decided to put everything into the new PC Geos, or Geos Ensemble as it is also called, and look like not developing our software for the C64/C128 any further. Things do look gloomy, don't they! Or do they? Isn't it CMD who are introducing the latest harddrives, new floppy speeders and Gateway versions for Geos and Com that there are companies here in Germany working on a new floppy speeder and 8 Mhz module, which is going to be compatible with Geos and other programs. Look to the USA and see the amount of excellent software coming across the Atlantic. What about here in Germany - 8000 Geos User Club members can't all be wrong. And the funny thing about it all is that the grass-roots Users - you and me - can do even more for our own cause! I know I shall. I intend to write to

Commodore and GeoWorks to try and make them see sense. Maybe they are not interested in earning money? There are so many Users who were not around before the production of the 1581s, GeoRam, 1750s, 1764s and 1751s were cast into the abyss of obscurity. Where are they supposed to get their peripherals from now. Did you know that if you try and introduce a new version of GeoRam for everyones benefit - your fingers would be slapped! "You can't do that we've got a copyright on it" - I can hear them say. "No! We are not interested in carrying on production of these items". What a dilemma! We need the peripherals, they can't, or will not develop them - and no one else is allowed to introduce a working copy of them. I suppose there must be some logic there somewhere, I can't see it though!

Come on Commodore and GeoWorks get your fingers out! Start checking those profits and balance sheets. See how many people are still purchasing your excellent pieces of hard- and software that you introduced to us. You have aroused our interest and dashed our hopes, both at the same time. Now we know what are aims should be for the future. To save our Geos!

:-) Roy